

WOMEN IN SOCIETY

rs. H I n A Davis Descants Elo-
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Women to Society at M tropoli
tbn A. M E Zion Church

During the G. A. R. encampment, we published in part an address delivered by Judge S. G. Davis, at the Met. A. M. E. Zion church. Rev. Wm. Snow-



MRS HELEN A DAVIS.

den, pastor, on the subject, "Spanish American War."

On the evening of the 21st inst., at the same church, its 71st anniversary was celebrated by the ladies of the church. Among the papers that were read was one by Mrs. Helen A. Davis, the wife of Judge S. G. Davis, upon the subject, "Relations of Women to Society." It was as fine an address as one would desire to hear. She has a graceful manner and an excellent delivery, and at the close of her remarks, she was accorded hearty applause. She spoke as follows:

"Dear friends, nothing is more pleasing to the eye than an assemblage like this. We see here intelligent representatives from all over Washington, North, East, South and West, which make it evident that the old time sectional prejudices have merged into race interest. And so to-day we stand more as an entirety.

I see the sun of patience, prudence, and perseverance, fast rising upon the horizon of accomplishment. It is the bounden duty of every woman to contribute something of what talent she has to society, and she does, consciously or otherwise. She is by nature charitably and liberally disposed, but she is a little partial to the opposite sex. This can't be helped, for wasn't it Eve that proffered Adam the apple? And by this little escapade we have had developed upon us an important duty to perform, namely, to assist in the elevation of man. For by woman he fell, and by woman he must rise. That is our mission. Now let us go about it, spreading our influence in every direction for the good of mankind.

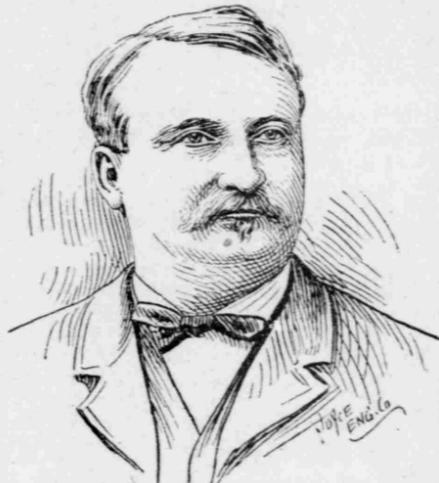
History tells us that during the first half of the fourteenth century, women were denied the right to assist man aside from household duties and cares; that they were treated as household chattels, to be borrowed, hired out and used, as their lords and masters saw fit. To dissent was out of the question. There were a few who could read and write, but most of them had no education whatever.

What did they know about arithmetic, algebra, geometry and physics? They had no reasoning power! A certain poet writes: "Women have more of what is termed common sense than man. They cannot reason wrong, for they do not reason at all. They have fewer pretensions, are less implicated in theories and judge of objects more from their immediate and un-

voluntary impressions on the mind, hence more truly and naturally. Then all that was expected of them was to love and obey! Yet once in a while there would rise an Evadne who was not willing to adopt herself to the life and conditions surrounding her, and whose spirit would strive for more light, more freedom of thought and speech and an acknowledgement of her capabilities. But her efforts were throttled by the mighty maelstrom of opposition by the male sex.

What would Sparta have done but for the courage of her women? The history of her bravery is unparalleled. It surpasses that of modern times. She reared her boys for the army, and at the tender age of ten they were sent to military schools, and put under the most rigid laws, suffering untold privations; were exposed to all kinds of weather, and as soon as they were old enough to fight, were sent out with these words from the lips of their mothers, "Return with your shields up or on them." Such courage was heralded all over this mundane sphere. It was impregnated in her progeny. It helped to give them a place in history.

The nineteenth century marks an important epoch in the history of wo-



JUDGE S. D. DAVIS.

men. We all know what effect the reign of Queen Victoria had upon her subjects. She was revered, honored and loved by all for her many sterling qualities, her fine sense of justice. Dealing fairly by all, England prospered as it never had before since the reign of Elizabeth.

In our own country the foremost woman of her times in literary circles, was Harriet Beecher Stowe, to whose memory the Colored people are grateful, she is the author of "Uncle Tom's Cabin," one of the greatest books of its times, and to-day public interest is alive in it. Its contents were read by nearly every nation in Europe, it being translated into seventeen different tongues, including Chinese and Japanese. In our own country the circulation amounted to 313,000 copies in four years.

It was in my judgment the most formidable weapon ever wielded against the abominable institution of slavery. That book stirred men's nature to a sense of justice and right. It created in them a desire to help their less fortunate sisters and brothers. This desire culminated in the civil war, and the liberation of three million slaves. All honor to the memory of Harriet Beecher Stowe. She will live in the hearts of our people as long as the world stands.

Contemporaneous with her there came upon the stage of action, another grand and noble character who went hand in hand with our Douglass, to champion the cause of women's rights, socially, politically, and legally. She knew no race color or creed. This woman was the late Elizabeth Cady Stanton. It was she who forced man from his pinnacle of self conceit to at least give women a trial in the administration of his affairs, aside from household duties, with the result that they have filled positions assigned to them creditably. They now occupy along with men, positions under the U. S. Government, and are at work in nearly every walk of life.

We see them as members of the bar, practicing in the courts of justice. We see them as trustees of schools, ripe with culture and wisdom. We

see them as nurses on the battle field, ministering angles. We also see them as sculptresses, Doctresses and artists. We hear of them piloting boats upon our waters, and even in the pulpit, a new field opened to them in the last half of the nineteenth century. All honor to the memory of the late Elizabeth Cady Stanton! She lived long to enjoy the blessings of God and the blessings of those who have been benefitted by having such privileges accorded them.

Among our foremost women to-day, are Miss Mattie Bowen, a woman of great executive ability and enterprise. Already her influence for good is being felt among her people. Mrs. Mary Church Terrell, a woman of great individuality, character and culture, who enjoys a reputation as a lecturer of note. Mrs. Rosetta Lawson, who is doing a great work in the temperance field. Mrs. Julia Layton, who is administering cheer and comfort in the homes of the unfortunates.

The church to-day owe a great deal of their prosperity to the strength and support given them by women especially. I can say it is so of this church. She is progressing spiritually and financially.

As I've said before, it is the duty of every woman to contribute something of what talent she has to society. Every woman has a talent by which someone may be benefited. "Let your light shine," God has commanded of us; but how often some of us through the bane of self conceit, confine ourselves within ourselves, or surround ourselves by the pale of society, or our chosen clan, because we see in them, and they in us, an affinity or a likeness to ourselves in characteristics, opinions, and our own way of entertaining. This is hurtful, as it detracts from our moral and mental growth and tone; hence we become narrow minded and bigoted.

If we wish to acquire knowledge and enrich our mental faculties, we must



MRS. MINNIE COX.

come in contact with the people, mingle with them. Remember, the world is our greatest school of knowledge and it has an inexhaustible supply.

What an influence is brought to bear when we come in contact or associate with the honest, thrifty ex-slaves. We see in them all the elements of success. We learn from them a valuable lesson, which is singularly unpretentious and convincing, for it is taught by the force of example, rather than by the vain repetition of hackneyed precepts.

We see in their progeny such men as Fred Douglass, Wm. Wells Brown, Henry Highland Garnett, J. M. Langston, Anthony Bowen, Chrispus Attucks. All these have played their parts in the great drama of life, and have left foot prints on the sands of time.

We see in their progeny such men of world-wide repute as Brooker T. Washington, T. Thomas Fortune, Bishop Alexander Walters, Judson Lyons, R. H. Terrell, ex-Representative Geo. White. It is an acknowledged fact that the standing and qualities of a nation depend largely upon the character of its women, especially the mothers. This condition forces upon us the truth of the declaration that "The hand that rocks the cradle rules the world."

Let us look forward with the high hope, faith and belief that the time is not far distant when he most cultivated and enlightened people will mingle together upon the broad level of so-

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cial equality and mutual respect. And when this happy consumation has been attained, the world will have become, indeed, a fit habitation for all those who believe in the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man.

NEWS IN GOTHAM.

Continued from third page.

malignant in their opposition to the Federal authority as they were in 1860-5.

The Bourbons of the South and the Doughface of the North, would, if they dared, again try the experiment of 1860. The Negro is now as he ultimately became at that time, the storm centre around which the contending force gathered and by the arbitrament of arms, decided the fate of the nation at the sacrifice of millions of treasure and thousands of lives. The vipers are again hissing and ready to spring and drive their poisonous fangs into the magnanimous foe, who gave them life, liberty and opportunity.

Let the colored men all over the country be discreet, temperate of speech, cautious in action, modest in bearing and determined to occupy the vantage ground which the heroism and suffering of the black man on two hundred battlefields of the rebellion gave to their posterity and all will be well. Don't boast and don't embarrass those of another race, who are endeavoring to secure to us and to our posterity the blessings of liberty and equality before the law and who recognize our right to be. The problem will adjust itself and nothing we can do or say will in any particular retard or hasten its solution. Slavery wasn't abolished by any of the plans of the abolitionists. The Great Emancipation was old "John Brown," the shot he fired into the citadel of slavery was heard around the world, awoke the sleeping conscience of the nation and precipitated the greatest rebellion the world ever knew.

We are getting ready in this country for something very similar to the great rebellion of 1860, leastwise that's the way it looks to me.

BRUCE GRIT.

Yonkers, N. Y. Jan. 24, 1908.